

**For U.S. forces
serving abroad**

Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Eight pages

Clinton marks Berlin Airlift anniversary by joining veterans at Tempelhof gala

BERLIN (AP) — In a 50th anniversary tribute to history's greatest humanitarian air rescue, President Clinton today recalled the bravery of U.S. and allied pilots whose Berlin airlift was the first battlefield of the Cold War.

"The most precious cargo did not come in the well-named care packages, it was the hope created by the constant roar of the planes overhead," Clinton said in a speech commemorating past heroics and cheering today's unifying Europe.

"Berliners called this noise a symphony of freedom," the president said.

With hundreds of airlift veterans looking on from bleachers lined with Ameri-

can and German flags, Clinton led the celebrations at Tempelhof Airport, the main operating base for the U.S. Air Force during the 15-month airlift.

The defiance of Moscow's road and rail blockade of West Berlin, Clinton said, was a defining moment of the 20th century, and not just for the Berliners.

"If the communists could fight with fear, then we would fight back with friendship and faith," Clinton said. "The airlift became a sharing of the soul."

Clinton recalled the words of President Truman at the moment he decided to launch the airlift. "There is no discussion on that point," Truman said. "We stay in

Berlin, period."

In turn, Chancellor Helmut Kohl expressed Germany's gratitude.

"This city owes its survival and freedom during the Cold War to the firm resolve of the United States and our other Western allies," Kohl said. He called the 462-day airlift a symbol of democracy's durability.

"This experience generated a desire to join together on a firm and long-term basis in the Atlantic alliance," he added, referring to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that was formed in April 1949.

Kohl also thanked the United States for supporting the reunification of Germany.

Navy promotes gay sailor it tried to oust

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — Months after trying to oust sailor Timothy McVeigh for alleged homosexuality, the Navy promoted him on Wednesday to its highest enlisted rank.

McVeigh, who is assigned to submarine duty in Hawaii, was promoted to master chief petty officer.

"I feel great," said McVeigh, who was chosen from an eligible pool of 168 sailors. "I have worked extremely hard for 18 years to

keep Navy submarines mission ready and make them a better place for sailors to work."

The promotion ceremony at the Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific was closed to the media. Navy Cmdr. Kevin Wensing denied that the notoriety of the case contributed to that decision.

"The ceremony is not considered a media event," he said.

The promotion came months after the service lost a

federal court battle aimed at forcing McVeigh's discharge on the grounds that he is gay. The 36-year-old McVeigh, who is not related to the convicted Oklahoma City bomber, has never discussed his sexuality publicly.

Military personnel can be dismissed for disclosing their homosexuality, but the armed forces cannot raise the issue on their own without sufficient cause.

The Navy began investigating McVeigh after he was

linked to an anonymous America Online profile page suggesting he was sexually interested in young men. He was ordered dismissed in December on charges he engaged in sodomy.

McVeigh successfully sued to block the dismissal. A federal judge ruled that the Navy violated the 1986 Electronic Communications Privacy Act by obtaining confidential information about the sailor from Internet provider AOL without a warrant.

Report says Air Force plans to leave Rhein-Main by 2004

RAMSTEIN AB, Germany (S&S) — The U.S. Air Force intends to pull out of Rhein-Main Air Base by 2004 at the latest, a German newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Trierischer Volksfreund, citing U.S. Air Forces in Europe internal documents, said the United States expects to receive about 300 million marks (\$172.4 million) for the full return of Rhein-Main Air Base. Military aircraft would fly either

into Spangdahlem Air Base to the west or to Ramstein Air Base to the southwest, the newspaper said.

In response to the report, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe said Wednesday: "The United States continually evaluates its basing options to determine if realignment is warranted. It would be inappropriate for us to speculate on future basing options at this time."

Capt. Troy Kitch, a USAFE spokesman,

said the command intends to comment further on the matter as soon as possible.

The Trier newspaper said the United States will leave Rhein-Main for two reasons: the limited growth potential for the U.S. military in Europe and the limitations placed on military flights because of increasing air traffic at Germany's busiest airport.

Rhein-Main is home to about 3,500 people, 800 of whom are active duty.

Work starts at disinterring Vietnam Unknown's remains

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Using a diamond-tip blade, workers sliced through granite slabs of the Tomb of the Unknowns on Wednesday, beginning exhumation of remains for possible identification of a pilot from the Vietnam War.

The remains were sealed in the Arlington National Cemetery monument 14 years ago with the intention that they never be removed. But Defense Secretary William Cohen last week ordered the exhumation to clear up suspicions of a downed pilot's family who think he's buried there.

A military honor guard, which usually patrols directly in front of the tomb 24 hours a day, marched instead on stairs behind crypts and the sarcophagus that contains the remains of a World War I unknown.

"We want to make sure the activities are carried out with the greatest respect," Charles Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said.

Just two weeks ago, a panel headed by Cragin recommended that the Vietnam unknown's remains — including a pelvis, right upper arm and four ribs — be ex-

amined to see if the identity could be determined. Cohen agreed to disinter the remains.

Work crews planned to spend nearly 12 hours to cut meticulously through 10 inches of granite. The remains were expected to be disinterred overnight, when the cemetery is closed to the public, to maintain the dignity of the site, and then transferred to a casket covered by an American flag. The casket will remain on a four-wheel cart under guard in preparation for a ceremony this morning.

Cohen will preside at that ceremony, after which the remains will be taken to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The Pentagon expected some relatives of the nine servicemen who are regarded as possibly buried in the tomb to attend, including Air Force 1st Lt. Michael J. Blassie's family, which requested the exhumation. Of the nine sets of remains collected from the same area of Vietnam around the same time, Capt. Rodney Strobridge, a 30-year-old Army helicopter pilot most closely matches the forensic evidence.

Theater pulls painting after protest by veterans

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Facing protests from veterans, a theater took down an abstract painting Wednesday because it incorporated parts of a cut-up American flag.

Veterans groups, led by the state Veterans Affairs commissioner, accused the

artist of desecrating the flag.

The head of the Bushnell theater said the removal of the painting was not an act of censorship. He said the work was taken down because the artist, I.S. Levitz, had initially claimed the flag was not real, then admitted it was.

Senate blocks anti-missile bill

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A Republican-sponsored bill aimed at speeding deployment of a national antimissile defense system was narrowly blocked in the Senate Wednesday. The action came after lawmakers clashed over the impact of failed interceptor tests at home, nuclear testing in India and worldwide weapons proliferation.

The legislation, which would have required the Pentagon to deploy a system to protect the United States from missile attack as soon as one can be made ready, won support of a Senate majority but failed to receive the 60 votes needed to break a Democratic filibuster.

The vote was 59 to 41, with four Democrats — Hawaiians Daniel K. Akaka and Daniel K. Inouye, Ernest F. Hollings of South Carolina and Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut — joining all 55 Republicans in voting to bring the bill to a vote. GOP leaders immediately went on to other business without scheduling another vote, signaling that no Democratic switches were in sight.

Exercise yields more than training

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — A week's military training exercise became an exchange of world views as well as about 500 representatives of NATO and Partnership for Peace countries worked together, a commander says.

A final day of live-fire exercises Wednesday wrapped up the work at Goldwater Air Force Range near Gila Bend, said Air Force Lt. Col. Glenn Williams of the Air Combat Command.

"This has well exceeded my expectations," Williams said. "I tried to set up a training exercise, and what resulted was a fairly effective cultural exchange. There was a lot of exchange of personal feel-

ings of how things are going on in the world."

Nations participating in Cooperative Zenith 1998 included England, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base provided facilities, and A-10 jets took part.

"The exercise was designed to introduce partnership nations to close-air-support procedures," said Williams. "The best way to do that was to let them put their hands on it..."

"This was about misrepresentation by an artist," said Douglas Evans, the Bushnell's executive director.

The top third of the 36-by-48-inch canvas shows part of an American flag. Extra stripes of red and white are above the stars and the flag is splotted.

Stripes

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Nuclear storage OK'd

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Wednesday approved the first permanent storage of nuclear waste deep beneath the Earth's surface.

Barring court injunction or an unlikely congressional override, the decision clears the way for the shipment of radioactive material to a cavernous tomb hollowed out of an ancient salt formation nearly half a mile below the southeastern New Mexico desert.

Most of the contaminated material, the detritus of Cold War weapons building, has been sitting in drums and above ground at 23 temporary sites.

James Owendoff, acting assistant energy secretary for environmental management, called the decision "an important part of the solution to cleaning up the thousands of tons of nuclear waste produced during the Cold War."

But by launching the first geologic nuclear trash heap, the decision also breaks new ground at a time when final decisions have not been made on

whether to deposit commercially generated nuclear waste at another site in Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

Use of the New Mexico salt deposits, left by a retreating ocean perhaps 250 million years ago, has been under consideration since 1974. In 1992, the Energy Department came within weeks of shipping waste there, only to be stopped by a federal court injunction.

One of the most active opponents of the plan argued Wednesday that the injunction remains in effect — and said that, if it isn't, his group would seek a new one.

"What they're doing is inappropriate, unsafe and illegal," said Don Hancock, director of nuclear waste safety programs at the Southwest Research and Information Center, an Albuquerque, N.M., environmental group.

Conceding that more legal action is likely, George Dials, the senior Energy Department official in Carlsbad, N.M., 26 miles from the waste site, said: "There'll be more lawyers than engineers working on this in the near future."

Justice, states ready to sue Microsoft

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a legal fight that may alter America's high-tech landscape, the Justice Department and at least 18 states are hitting Microsoft Corp. with federal antitrust lawsuits, barring last-minute concessions from the company, sources familiar with the plans said.

The sources said the lawsuits were to be filed today in U.S. District Court in Washington. One person familiar with the states' case said the lawsuits were certain "unless (Microsoft Chairman) Bill Gates makes an offer."

The action — one of the biggest antitrust efforts since the 1984 breakup of AT&T — culminates a high-profile investigation by the federal government and the states into the business practices of Microsoft, the world's most influential software company. Its Windows products are used on virtually all desktop computers.

The case could have profound implications on the Redmond, Wash.-based company's legal freedom to add new features to Windows, such as the ability of computers to understand speech.

The states are asking a federal court in a 48-page complaint to force Microsoft to relax many of its sales agreements with computer-makers, giving them more freedom to install competitors' products over Microsoft's and to customize the versions of Windows they sell, the sources said.

If Microsoft doesn't agree, the states may ask the court to block the latest upgrade to the company's widely used operating system, Windows 98, which is expected to be shipped to computer makers Friday. A research company, International Data Corp. of Framingham, Mass., estimated Wednesday that Microsoft would sell 19.7 million copies during 1998.

The Justice Department and the states contend that Microsoft has wielded its monopoly status to illegally crimp competition, especially in the market for Internet browsers, the software that people use to view information on the World Wide Web.

Microsoft has included its browser free in the latest versions of Windows.

Nichols may get \$14.5 million bill

DENVER (AP) — Terry Nichols will not be allowed to profit from the Oklahoma City bombing and should pay the government for the building he conspired to blow up, a federal judge said Wednesday.

Prosecutors told the judge they were worried Nichols would try to sell rights to a book or a movie

after co-conspirator Timothy McVeigh is executed.

"He would be left as the only person living who knew the story," prosecutor Beth Wilkinson told U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch.

Matsch said he will order Nichols to pay up to \$14.5 million from the sale of any property or book rights at sentencing,

which is set for June 4.

Attorneys for both sides then began haggling over which property Nichols owns that could be used to pay restitution, including a house he is trying to sell in Herington, Kan.

Matsch said he would order any money into an escrow account to be decided after the sentencing

Atlanta likely to pull Freaknik's plug

ATLANTA (AP) — The party may be over for Freaknik, Atlanta's annual spring festival for black college students.

Shocked by TV footage of gangs of men groping women during the festival last month, the city's welcoming committee for the street party is asking Mayor Bill Campbell to withdraw Atlanta's support.

"When individuals say they want to come to Freaknik, they come with a men-

talinity that it is an open season on women," said George Hawthorne, who heads the committee. "Their main intent is to come for some lewd and sexual experience."

Aside from free-for-all fondling, Freaknik has earned a reputation for producing monumental traffic jams and sporadic looting. Many businesses close during the rite of spring, which took place April 17-19 this year.

India sets off 2 more nuke tests

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A defiant India set off two more underground nuclear explosions Wednesday, saying its security needs outweighed the storm of international protest and the threat of a regional arms race.

Sounding like a cold warrior, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee insisted the five surprise tests this week were necessary to protect his country in a nuclear world.

"Some countries think only of their own security and that they alone can take steps using nuclear technology to protect their borders and that others cannot do so. We cannot accept this," Vajpayee said.

Three underground nuclear explosions Monday and two more Wednesday prompted the United States and other countries to announce immediate sanctions in an urgent attempt to stop a new nuclear arms race.

In Germany, President Clinton announced economic sanctions against the New Delhi government, calling the tests "a terrible mistake."

But the tests were welcomed in India, which suffers from poverty and ethnic and class divisions, as a sign of power, scientific sophistication and its ability to stand up to world opinion.

"Ideally, I'd like a nuclear-free world. But that's not the reality today," Vajpayee told

supporters gathered outside his home. Vajpayee has said India faces nuclear threats from China and Pakistan.

Where there wasn't support for the tests, there was apathy.

"I cannot mobilize Indians to come out to march against nuclear weapons. They don't know what atom bombs are. They are worried about their daily bread," said Dhirenda Sharma, a retired philosophy professor.

U.S. puts sanctions on New Delhi

By Washington Post

BERLIN — President Clinton tried Wednesday to head off a full-fledged nuclear arms race in South Asia, imposing an array of economic sanctions on India as punishment for its series of nuclear tests and sending a high-level delegation to Pakistan in hopes of convincing that government not to follow suit.

Standing with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl outside the summer palace of Frederick the Great at the start of a week-long European trip, Clinton said India's behavior "recalls the very worst events of the 20th century" and cannot be justified by India's desire to gain greater respect around the world.

"They have to define the greatness of India in 21st century terms, not in terms that everybody else has already decided to reject," the president said.

Clinton's decision could cost India millions in direct aid and billions in credits and guarantees. After deciding to level the sanctions en route to Ger-

many Tuesday night, he formally invoked the measures early Wednesday morning, shortly before the news that India had set off two more nuclear explosions, following three underground tests on Monday.

The president called on other nations to join the United States in punishing India. But while key allies have joined in withholding aid to India and making strong diplomatic protests, so far they have resisted the sanctions route.

The most urgent task for the U.S. administration was trying to convince Pakistan, India's neighbor and bitter rival, not to respond with nuclear tests of its own. Clinton spoke with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif by phone Wednesday morning, but U.S. and Pakistani officials said Sharif gave the president no assurances that Pakistan would refrain from nuclear testing.

"It seems that the Indian leadership has gone berserk," said Pakistani Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan.

Companies shoulder burden of rulings

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Boeing Co. stands to lose almost \$500 million in aircraft orders as a result of President Clinton's decision to impose economic sanctions on India, while major roadblocks lie ahead for construction companies, power generation equipment suppliers and electric utility plant builders investing billions of dollars to help India overcome its chronic shortage of electric generating capacity.

Other U.S. companies scrambled Wednesday to determine how their dealings with India might be affected by the sanctions, which Clinton imposed after India announced it had exploded five nuclear devices. All told, the sanctions appear likely to cost India close to \$20 billion in loan guarantees and other economic aid from U.S. and international agencies.

"Everybody is just wondering what in the hell is going on," said Judith Lee, a partner who specializes in international trade at the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

India still lacks reliable, long-range delivery system

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — With its five underground nuclear tests this week, India has shown it can build a nuclear bomb. But it may be years before it can reliably deliver it to a distant target.

A senior government official said Wednesday that India will resume tests of long-range missiles that were suspended under United States pressure in 1994. But it plans no more testing of nuclear de-

vices like the five detonated in northwestern India this week, he said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the tests gave India a credible nuclear deterrent and that India needed no further underground explosions to build tactical or strategic weapons.

But a delivery system is another matter. Warplanes can be intercepted and are

not considered reliable. A nuclear arsenal requires ballistic missiles, says defense analyst Jasjit Singh.

India is building a long-range ballistic missile called Agni, or Fire in Hindi, which has a range of 1,550 miles, enough to reach Shanghai or Beijing.

It also has tested a short-range missile, Prithvi, or Earth, which can target Pakistani cities within 95 miles.

Cult leader's spouse sentenced to 7 years

From Associated Press

TOKYO — A court Thursday sentenced the wife of doomsday cult leader Shoko Asahara to seven years in prison for the 1994 murder of a cult member.

Tomoko Matsumoto, 39, was found guilty of conspiring with her husband and fellow disciples to kill former Aum Shinri Kyo cult member Kotaro Ochida.

In January 1994, Ochida and former cult member Hideaki Yasuda tried to rescue Yasuda's sick mother from the cult's commune on the foot of Mt. Fuji.

But their attempt failed, and Aum leader Asahara told Yasuda to kill Ochida or he would be killed.

Tomoko Matsumoto was present when several cult members held Ochida down, wrapped a rope around his neck and let Yasuda strangle Ochida to death. Yasuda has already been found guilty.

Smoking out on Japan flights

TOKYO — Japan's three biggest airlines have decided to ban smoking on all domestic flights later this year, airline officials said Thursday.

Japan Airlines, All Nippon Airlines and Japan Air System will eliminate smoking sections on domestic routes. The airlines will continue to have smoking sections on international flights.

Police officers charged

ANKARA, Turkey — Torture charges were filed Wednesday against 15 policemen accused of using electric shock on a suspect.

The charges were filed after a parliamentary human rights commission concluded the officers tortured Suphi Dildas in March while he was in custody in the southeastern city of Sanliurfa. Dildas, a mechanic, said he was stripped and given electric shocks.

Top madam arrested

MEXICO CITY — For 30 years, police say, she maintained a revolving staff of up to 200 prostitutes. She charged up to \$1,000 a client, they say, and paid off top police officials to look the other way. She earned nearly \$6 million a year.

Police said they put an end to Mexico City's largest prostitution ring with the arrest of Maria Antonieta Espinoza

Slow count in Philippines continues to draw fire

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Vice President Joseph Estrada continued his strong lead today in the Philippine presidential vote count, as criticisms increased over the slow pace of the tallying.

Estrada's party claims that government officials have been pressuring their local counterparts to slow the count from Monday's election to enable cheating by the ruling party.

Estrada said election returns have been delayed in 19 of the Philippines' 78 provinces and told local officials not to give in to pressures to delay the tallying.

The secretary-general of the leading poll watchdog group acknowledged today growing apprehension about the pace of the count.

"The public has a right to be concerned when the count is slow," said Luz Guillermo of the National Citi-

zen's Movement for Free Elections.

With about 16 percent of the ballots counted in the 10-candidate race, Estrada continued to have an imposing lead with 36 percent of the vote, NAMFREL said.

President Fidel Ramos' hand-picked candidate, House Speaker Jose de Venecia, jumped to second place with about 13 percent. Sen. Raul Roco slid to third, NAMFREL said.

On Wednesday, Manila's influential archbishop, Cardinal Jaime Sin, called on Estrada's rivals to concede defeat.

Sin, who had warned that an Estrada presidency would be "most probably disastrous" for the country, issued a pastoral statement saying, "I believe the trend is now clear."

Estrada, a college dropout, has admitted a history of womanizing, heavy drinking and gambling.

Looting, riots threaten Suharto

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The government sent armored personnel carriers into the streets of the capital today as frenzied looting and chaotic rioting threatened President Suharto's grip on power.

A dozen of the vehicles slowly drove in formation through a district lined with major government and commercial offices not far from the Presidential Palace and the country's national monument.

Other armored vehicles were positioned near a university where an anti-

government protest was held, but made no immediate move to intervene.

Jakarta plunged deeper into turmoil that has been building as Indonesia endures its worst economic crisis in decades.

Plumes of thick smoke billowed across the skyline as thousands of rioters set cars, tires, shops and homes on fire and looted what they could. A mob burned a police station as officers fired at them and a helicopter dropped tear gas canisters.

There were unconfirmed reports that about a

dozen people were missing or killed after homes, shops, cars and offices were ransacked and burned. Security personnel fired warning shots to clear crowds. Witnesses said five men were wounded by live ammunition fired by police.

However, officers were nowhere to be found in many areas, allowing mobs to run wild, adding to the chaos. Looting was matched by panic-buying and many supermarkets were burned. Dozens of roads were blocked off causing traffic chaos.

Farmer spends week with poisonous snakes

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A 29-year-old farmer emerged unscathed after spending a week inside a glass-walled room with 100 poisonous snakes, a feat organizers claim sets a world mark, Bangkok newspapers reported Tuesday.

Boonruang Buachan, who says he has

special communication with the serpents, emerged Monday from the room in a Bangkok department store where his companions included deadly king cobras along with 30 centipedes and 20 scorpions.

Wallaby gets jump on surprised police officers

By Associated Press

GILBERT, Ariz. — A runaway wallaby had the jump on police for more than an hour, hopping away from capture and snarling city traffic.

"It could definitely outrun us," Officer George Cox said. "In my three years on the department, I've chased cows, potbellied pigs and horses. But I've never chased a wallaby before."

The wallaby — a cousin of the larger Australian kangaroo — led police on a wild chase through downtown Gilbert before it hopped over a fence and landed back where it belongs — in a group home's backyard.

Mary Mills, a caregiver at the home, opened the door when police warned her there was an odd animal frolicking in her yard.

"The officer said, 'Ma'am, there's a kangaroo in your backyard,'" Mills said, laughing.

"I said, 'Really? There should be two.'"

She explained that the owner of the home had fallen in love with the cuddly marsupials during a visit to Australia last summer and had bought a pair of wallabies to keep her clients company.

Doctor takes patient for a ride

DES MOINES, Iowa — When insurance hassles entangled one of his patients, Dr. Scott Neff did his best to cheer him up. Neff dug into his pocket and paid for 70-year-old Claude Roberts to ride to a skilled nursing center in a limousine.

"It was quite a deal," said Roberts, a retired farmer whose limousine was equipped with a TV. "And they even had the air conditioning running. I had lots of leg room."

After Neff replaced Roberts' right hip last fall, Medicare refused to pay for skilled nursing care after his hospital stay unless Roberts was taken to the facility

by ambulance. Neff said taking an ambulance is a sign that a patient needs the skilled care in the first place.

But then Medicare wouldn't pay for \$760 ambulance bill, so Roberts paid it.

After another surgery, Roberts asked that he not be sent to a skilled nursing center because he "couldn't afford another \$800 ambulance ride."

So Neff decided to send him home in style.

Matador picks her place

MADRID, Spain — A Spanish bullfighter on Tuesday became the first woman ever to appear in Madrid's renowned Las Ventas bullring, formalizing her status as one of the world's top matadors.

The groundbreaking fight by Cristina Sanchez, 25, during the reknown San Isidro festival at Las Ventas, came two years after she became the first women in Europe to achieve professional matador status.

**Faces
'n'
places**

Hose job costs man half an inch

LONG BRANCH, N.J. (AP) — A 51-year-old man seeking sexual gratification with a vacuum cleaner nearly bled to death when the machine cut off a half-inch of his penis, authorities said.

The intoxicated man first told police that someone had stabbed him in the crotch as he slept, Long Branch public safety director Louis Napoletano said.

However, officers realized the man had hoped to obtain sexual pleasure from the appliance's suction, Napoletano said.

"But what he didn't realize is that there's a blade in the vacuum cleaner," Napoletano said.

In The Stars and Stripes

10 YEARS AGO

May 14, 1988 — The number of AIDS cases increased at least 72 percent worldwide, with the epidemic concentrated in the Americas and spread in three distinct geographic patterns, the World Health Organization said.

20 YEARS AGO

May 14, 1978 — President Carter made a forceful, last-minute appeal to senators to support his Middle East arms package warning of dire consequences if the deal were rejected.

30 YEARS AGO

May 14, 1968 — At preliminary peace talks in Paris, the United States said it would be willing to end bombing of North Vietnam and start withdrawing troops of Hanoi pulled out its forces from the South.

40 YEARS AGO

May 14, 1958 — In Algiers, 50,000 French right-wingers took to the streets in a day of rioting that ended with the naming of an 11-man junta in a clear move to separate Algerian from France by a coup d'État

50 YEARS AGO

May 14, 1948 — Arabs and Jews moved into battle positions as British troops began to leave Jerusalem, ending Great Britain's 30-year mandate over Palestine.

Boos greet safe-sex message from reigning Miss America

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Miss America Kate Shindle had to wait for the boos to die down before she could finish talking to high school students about safe sex.

Shindle told students at Jefferson Davis High School that

the AIDS virus can be avoided through education and avoiding unprotected sex and intravenous drug use.

She told teen-agers that if they were sexually active, they should use latex condoms. "It doesn't mean that you don't trust someone; it

means that you're concerned about your health," she said.

Then she was asked whether she practices abstinence or safe sex.

"I don't get into my own sexual experience," she replied, prompting loud boos.

Miss Shindle, 21, waited for

the ruckus to die down, and then continued her speech Monday.

"No matter what I say, some of you will not be able to relate to it, but what I will say is that I practice what I preach," she said.

St. John's hoops coach fired while on vacation

By Newsday

NEW YORK — Two years ago, Fran Fraschilla believed he had found his version of basketball fantasyland when he became the men's basketball coach at St. John's. Wednesday, as Fraschilla and his family vacationed at the real Magic Kingdom in Florida, the school announced that the position the Brooklyn native once described as his dream job no longer belonged to Fraschilla.

A tersely worded statement released by St. John's Athletic Director Ed Manetta said the school and Fraschilla "have agreed to end their relationship," in effect firing the popular and fiery 39-year-old coach, who had made substantial progress toward rebuilding the program after the desultory tenure of Brian Mahoney. In two years, Fraschilla posted a 35-24 record, including last season's 22-10 mark and the Red Storm's first NCAA Tournament berth since 1993.

In the statement, Manetta said the move stemmed from "fundamental differences between Fraschilla and the University over the management of the basketball program" and stressed that the decision "had nothing to do with any unlawful conduct, violations of NCAA regulations, or financial improprieties."

Manetta refused to discuss those "differences" or elaborate on the reasons for firing Fraschilla or the timing of the

move. Fraschilla said he could not comment on his departure but looked back at his tenure at St. John's and said: "I wish things could have been different. But I want to look back at these two years as part of my learning experience. I've become a better coach at St. John's, coaching against Jim Calhoun and John Thompson."

Sources indicated the parties were bound by a confidentiality agreement, part of a negotiated settlement hammered out since Friday, when Fraschilla apparently was fired. Fraschilla had two years remaining on his contract, estimated to be worth approximately \$450,000 per year.

Speculation as to the cause of Fraschilla's dismissal has centered on the coach's reported contact last month with Arizona State. According to sources at St. John's, Fraschilla's pursuit of that job while also seeking a contract extension at St. John's angered Manetta, school president the Rev. Donald Harrington and former coach Lou Carnesecca. St. John's officials also were offended when Fraschilla's name was linked with openings at Texas and Virginia.

"The bottom line is he had (angered) a lot of people ... by negotiating and trying to get more money from us when this is one of the 10 best jobs in America," a source close to the situation said.

It will be Pacers, Bulls in Eastern finals

CHICAGO (AP) — It's one of the NBA's basic, unwritten rules, like rookies carrying veterans' bags. Everyone knows it, and most players are smart enough to accept it.

But the Charlotte Hornets just had to test it. And like anyone else who's tried to bend the rules, they've learned their lesson: Never, ever make Michael Jordan mad. Do it, and he'll make you pay.

Jordan scored all 11 of his fourth-quarter points after a dust-up with Glen Rice that earned His Airness a rare technical foul, and the Chicago Bulls moved on to the Eastern Conference finals with a 93-84 victory over the Hornets on Wednesday.

Chicago plays Indiana, which beat the

Knicks 4-1 in the other semifinal series.

The win over Chicago's eighth trip to the conference finals in the last 10 years.

Getting back to the conference finals was more difficult than the Bulls expected as the Hornets played their most physical game and shot better than they had all series.

"It was a scrum game that physically had to be won by the players," Chicago coach Phil Jackson said.

Jordan certainly did his share with 33 points. He carried Chicago through three quarters, knocking down jumpers with Rice and Anthony Mason hanging all over him.

Finally, with 10:09 left and the Bulls holding onto a 76-74 lead, Jordan lost his

Preakness field filled at 11

By Newsday

BALTIMORE — What began as a field anticipated to number as few as six and no more than nine became an assembly of 11 3-year-olds Wednesday after an injury to Halory Hunter and the withdrawal of defeated Kentucky Derby favorite Indian Charlie on Tuesday changed the complexion of Saturday's 123rd Preakness Stakes.

Favored Coronado's Quest, whose connections drew the right to select a post position first, chose the No. 4 post. Owner Stuart Janney made the selections after conferring by phone with trainer Shug McGaughey and jockey Mike Smith, who were in New York. The connections of Kentucky Derby winner Real Quiet were less fortunate in the draw, getting the last position in order of selection, which equated to the outside post. Horses whose names were drawn in the seven outside positions will break from the corresponding posts, including Derby runner-up Victory Gallop, who will break from the No. 10 stall with Gary Stevens, who rode Indian Charlie in Kentucky.

Clem Florio, the Pimlico oddsmaker, installed Coronado's Quest as the 2-1 overnight favorite, with Real Quiet at 5-2 and Victory Gallop at 3-1.

cool. After he and Rice got tangled up in front of the Bulls bench for a second time, Jordan had to be restrained by Scottie Pippen. Rice was charged with an offensive foul, and both he and Jordan were hit with technicals.

Pacers 99, Knicks 88

Mark Jackson had the first triple-double in Pacers playoff history to lead Indiana over New York in the series clincher.

Jackson had 22 points, 14 rebounds and 13 assists as Indiana reached its first conference final since 1995 under rookie coach Larry Bird.

"We do not get rattled, we make plays and we do not beat ourselves," Mark Jackson said.

Braves home run hitters smack 25th straight

By Associated Press

Once Mark McGwire finished batting practice, the Braves showed off their home run power.

Atlanta set an NL record and tied a major league mark by homering in its 25th straight game Wednesday night as the Braves rolled to a 10-2 win over the Cardinals in St. Louis.

Ryan Klesko's two-run shot in the sixth inning helped the Braves tie the 1941 New York Yankees and 1994 Detroit Tigers as the only teams to homer in 25 consecutive games.

Fans who came to Busch Stadium hop-

ing to see McGwire launch one of his trademark shots, instead got to see the Braves flex their muscles.

"We really just go out and play and hopefully somebody will do it," Klesko said.

Atlanta, which has won five in a row and nine of 10, is off to its best start in franchise history. And despite his team passing the 1953 Brooklyn Dodgers for the NL record, Braves manager Bobby Cox isn't impressed by home runs or history.

"The wins are the big thing," Cox said. "The home runs, who really cares? But

it's good for baseball to have something to talk about."

Elsewhere, it was Houston 1, Pittsburgh 0; Cincinnati 10, Florida 4; Montreal 9, San Francisco 5; Los Angeles 9, Philadelphia 4; New York 4, San Diego 3; and Milwaukee 8, Arizona 3.

Atlanta, which has 45 homers in the streak and leads the majors with 65, can break the record tonight.

McGwire, second in the NL in homers with 14 and one behind Atlanta's Andres Galarraga, thrilled the early-arriving fans and the Braves who came out early to watch him take BP.

Angel's Velarde makes surgery pay off

By Associated Press

With one swing, Randy Velarde made the whole wait worthwhile.

Velarde, who had not batted in the big leagues since 1996 because of reconstructive surgery on his right elbow, hit a home run in his first at-bat Wednesday night in the Anaheim Angels' 8-3 win over the Chicago White Sox.

"It was my opening day," Velarde said. "I had that type of anxiety and that type of anxiousness."

Velarde went 2-for-3 and scored three runs. He homered over the center-field fence leading off the third inning.

"It was kind of like an exclamation point, like, 'Hey, I'm ready,'" Angels shortstop Gary DiSarcina said.

In other games, New York beat Texas 8-6, Baltimore defeated Cleveland 8-1, Kansas City downed Tampa Bay 4-0, Minnesota beat Boston 7-4, Oakland topped Toronto 4-2 and Detroit defeated Seattle 8-5.

Velarde last hit in the majors on

Sept. 27, 1996. He played in one game in the majors last year, appearing as a pinch-runner.

Velarde, who can play all over the infield and outfield, started at second base, where the Angels intend to use him most often. He irritated his arm making a diving play and left after eight innings, but manager Terry Collins hopes to start him again tonight.

"He was outstanding," Collins said. "He's one of the guys we've been waiting for a long time and it means something to us to have him back."

Cecil Fielder hit a 473-foot homer, the longest by an opponent in the eight-year history of the new Comerica Park. Darin Erstad also homered for the Angels.

White Sox star Albert Belle was ejected for the second time this season. He was called out on strikes in the seventh inning and tossed by umpire Terry Craft, with Chicago manager Jerry Manuel interceding to keep them apart.

Dallas wants no Edmonton return date

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — The Edmonton Oilers desperately want to return for another playoff game in their hometown. The Dallas Stars will do everything possible to avoid another trip to western Canada, even though they profited in Alberta.

The Stars muscled out a 3-1 victory Wednesday night over the Oilers to put a stranglehold on their Western Conference semifinal. It was their second straight win in Edmonton and they lead the best-of-7 series 3-1.

"We're going to talk about not coming back to Edmonton," said Dallas center Brian Skrudland. "We know they're a proud bunch, they believe because they've done it before."

Benoit Hogue scored two of three Dallas goals Wednesday to help the NHL's top regular-season club get a commanding lead in the series. Of course, the Avalanche thought their 3-1 lead in the opening round was commanding, too.

"They came back down 3-1 from a great hockey team in Colorado," said Hogue. "This series is over when you win four and we only have three right now."

Hogue said he looked forward to going back to Reunion Arena with the chance to close out the Oilers.

"We're up 3-1 and I think our fans are going to be right there behind us and be an extra player on the ice for us," he said.

Foreman vs. Holmes just might happen

By Associated Press

It seems that for his 50th birthday on Jan. 10, George Foreman wants Larry Holmes to punch him in the head.

You can bet Big George doesn't want to get hit in the belly on any day.

If the fight happens, Foreman reportedly would

make \$10 million. Holmes, who becomes 49 on Nov. 3, would have to settle for a measly \$4 million.

Foreman vs. Holmes. Who cares, you ask?

Well, promoter Roger Levitt obviously hopes there are enough middle-aged Americans and plenty

of curious 30- and 20-somethings to sell the match between these two boxing relics on pay-per-view.

Holmes said Wednesday he has signed a contract. Roy Foreman also said his brother has signed, but others said he hasn't.

Nothing is certain.